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Black Alumni Chronicle

Selected prospective students, as well as University of Dayton alumni, are receiving this issue of UD's *Black Alumni Chronicle*.

Alumni pursue pride

"Alumni pride" — talk at the first annual alumni leadership conference kept coming back to that topic.

"It's a quiet kind of pride," said Margaret Peters '59, author, educator and member of the board of

directors of UD's National Alumni Association.

It might become a bit less quiet as UD seeks to achieve its Vision 2005 plan and to gain widespread recognition as a national leader in Catholic higher education.

The National Alumni Association plans to play a major role in achieving that vision. The mid-September leadership conference marked the first such event bringing together the newly formed board of directors, alumni chapter leaders and other influential alumni.

Karen Thompson '77, alumni president from 1993 to 1996, oversaw the transition from the

previous alumni structure to the current system that has a board distinct from the chapter leadership. The system is expected to enhance the growth of programming and the role of alumni in the future of the University.

Alumni activity has been growing rapidly in recent years. The alumni career network, for example, had 275 members in 1992 and has more than 2,000 today.

Thompson, having finished her service as president, was nonetheless at the leadership conference — as a member of her reunion committee.

She was pleased to see the new structure beginning to function as she and other alumni leaders had hoped. Those devoted to building chapter activities were able to share and develop their skills and ideas.

Meanwhile, the board of directors was able to begin its tasks, which are more strategic in nature.

As they began,

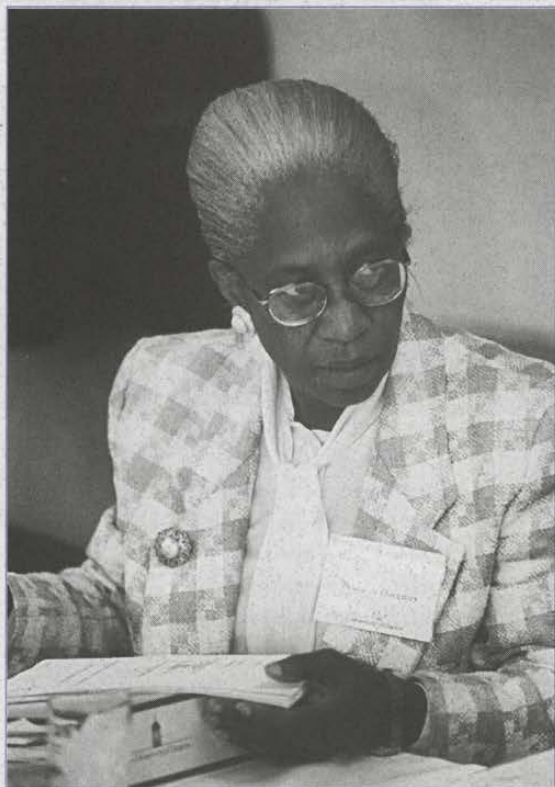


Karen Thompson '77, president of UD's National Alumni Association from 1993 to 1996, guided her fellow alumni through a transition that proposes both improvement to UD's rapidly growing alumni programming and increased strategic involvement by alumni.

they noted the importance of building alumni pride, said Peters, a national award-winning educator and author of *Dayton's African American Heritage*.

Peters thinks they've made a good beginning. "It was not just sit and listen to a lot of speeches."

The reason she's becoming involved? "I have all my higher education from UD. The University's done a lot for me and the community. This is a way to give back."



Margaret Peters '59, new alumni board member, chairs the awards committee. For information on the one-sheet nomination form, contact the Alumni House (937-229-3299; alumni-house@udayton.edu).

Debra Moore takes a risk

In the chill of a February evening and in the glow of hundreds of candles, Debra Moore '89 felt warmed by how University of Dayton students quickly came together this year to counter racist graffiti found in a residence hall.

"I knew then that my work had paid off," says Moore, former associate dean of students. "They weren't saying, 'This is a racist institution.' What students were that night were facilitators for community."

In July, Moore took her community-building skills to the Franciscan Health System of the

Ohio Valley, where she was recruited to be regional vice president for diversity. "It was enticing for a president of a corporation to put diversity at that level," she says. "I had to figure out what was best for me — the security of staying at the University of Dayton or the risk of this new position. After years of standing in front of crowds and talking to students about taking risks, I had laid my own path."

In her new posi-



Debra Moore

tion, Moore and a staff of five offer diversity training for the company, which comprises 29 hospitals, social service and long-term care facilities. Her staff also surveys clients, customers and patients

to assure that the company is providing quality service and assesses the climate for diversity company-wide.

"I'm also involved in external relations as well as being a facilitator for building community internally," she says. "In some ways, I haven't skipped a beat."

Although she misses daily contact with students, she's still in touch because both sons are pursuing their UD degrees.

"Just last night they brought two friends home for dinner. They know," she says with a laugh, "that they can always come home with Chip and Phillip."

Students learn by doing

JEBORRAH PERKINS

Jeborrah Perkins, a senior management information systems major, served in a work placement program in Cameroon last summer.

During the five-week immersion program, Perkins and seven other UD students stayed with host families and worked in the Cameroon Opportunities Industrialization Center, a non-profit organization that helps underprivileged and unemployed Cameroonians attain job skills

needed for employment.

Perkins says that the Cameroon program "was a very exciting experience for me because it was the first time I actually used the skills and information I've acquired in class in a hands-on situation."

ROBERT LYONS

Robert Lyons, a first-year music composition major, is the most recent recipient of the W.S. McIntosh Memorial Scholarship.

The merit-based scholarship is awarded annually by UD to one black high

school senior from the Dayton area. The scholarship pays for tuition, room and board and provides a summer internship with the city of Dayton.

This summer, Lyons also worked in Project Alabama, a two-week community-service program. Lyons and three other UD students tutored children in an Alabama elementary school and visited several civil rights sites.

Lyons, a graduate of Colonel White High School, is also beginning his fifth year as drummer for the Ebony Heritage



Jeborrah Perkins

Singers, UD's gospel choir.

JOY STEPHENS

Last July, Joy Stephens, a senior psychology major, studied at the Institute for the Recruitment of Teachers, a program in Andover, Mass., that prepares seniors for graduate school.

During this intensive four-week

She's learning communication — from orphans and television

From Haitian orphanages to American tabloid TV, Donita Harger has been exposed to some rather diverse cultural phenomena recently.

Harger, a senior communication major concentrating in radio and television, and nine other UD students went to Haiti last March with the Spring Break-Out program. During their nine-day stint, students stayed as guests in the St. John's Orphanage for Boys, a housing facility for Haitian street kids, in Port-au-Prince. Harger worked in a baby

hospital where she helped nurses feed and care for infants and young children.

For Harger the most striking aspect of Haiti was the utter poverty that pervaded the country and the marked socio-economic gap between the rich and the poor. "There is no middle class in Haiti," says Harger, "so you would see either a Mercedes or a slum when you would walk down the street."

Harger asserts that the Haitian trip



Adding to her experience in Haiti and New York is Donita Harger's work with UD's Center for Business and Economic Research.

was "the most rewarding experience of her life" and gave her a "new perspective on how we live in the U.S."

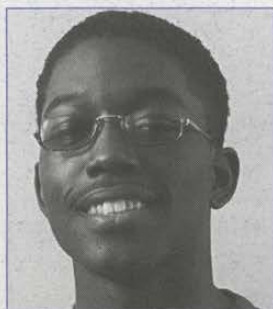
A few months after

her return from Haiti, Harger then traveled to New York where she interned for the television program *Inside Edition*. From June 3 through Aug. 9, she helped research news stories, took viewer calls about story suggestions and worked in the editing department. In addition to her work on the program, Harger took two classes at Fordham University.

Noting the questionable reputations of other TV news tabloids, Harger is quick to point out that this one is "not as bad as *Current Affair* or *Hard Copy*."

The internship gave Harger "valuable behind-the-scenes experience" and opened her eyes to the competition and the politics of the television industry.

Back on campus, Harger is currently president of BATU (Black Action Through Community).



Robert Lyons

program, students took GRE prep classes along with reading and writing courses that prepare students for graduate-level work.

But "what was unique about the program," according to Stephens, "was that students lead the class discussions." This "gave us hands-on experience in the classroom."



Joy Stephens

EARL BRAY

Earl Bray has taken what some would call a "non-traditional" route to his college degree.

After earning an associate's degree from Cincinnati Technical College, Bray worked for IBM for eight years.

Now, Bray is a senior electronic engineering tech-



Earl Bray

nology major set to graduate from UD in the summer of 1997.

This past summer, Bray traveled to Connecticut where he interned with Duracell doing "everything from repairs to networking and low-end programming." Duracell offered Bray a job after he graduates; Bray says that he will probably accept.

Catholic intellectual tradition

Moore studies history of black Catholics

Two days after Cecilia Moore defended her thesis, she walked into her first class at UD, bringing a research interest in African American Catholic history.

Moore, a new assistant professor of religious studies, devoted her doctoral work to studying and writing the history of the Cardinal Gibbons Institute, an African American Catholic high school in St. Mary's County, Md., that incorporated black history and culture into its indus-



Cecilia Moore

trial education program and its strong liberal arts curriculum. Moore's dissertation focused on the institute's 1924-1934 period, when it was heavily involved in community work in St. Mary's County, which

had the highest death rate in the nation for African Americans.

Moore said one of the institute's most significant outreach programs involved developing a holistic health campaign that faculty and students took into the churches of St. Mary's County.

The county experienced a decrease in death rate attributed to the program. The Cardinal Gibbons Institute closed in 1968.

Born, reared and schooled in Virginia, Moore is living for the first time in the Midwest. She was

drawn to UD because she "liked the idea of working in a Catholic school." Having attended Catholic schools for nine years herself, Moore said she believes it's important to be in an environment where religion is taken seriously.

She is teaching U. S. Catholic history and Introduction to Religion fall semester. Winter semester she will launch a new course, African American Religious History. Moore earned her master's degree and Ph.D. from the University of Virginia.

KEEP IN TOUCH

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The *Black Alumni Chronicle* is published three times a year by the University of Dayton public relations office in cooperation with African-American student services and alumni relations.



The University of Dayton

Printed on
recycled paper

Non-profit Organization
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 71
Dayton, OH